

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-11 ACDA-19 DRC-01

/157 W

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R 311443Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3688

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

SEC NAVY WASHDC

USLO SACLANT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 2745

USLO SACLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NL

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON SACLANT TANKER  
ROUTE STUDY

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 2435

B. STATE 102786

1. SUMMARY. SECOND CHAMBER INTERPELLATED MINISTER OF  
DEFENSE VREDELING AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS VAN  
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DER STOEL ON SACLANT CAPE ROUTE PROTECTION STUDY MAY 30.  
FOREIGN MINISTER ASSURED CHAMBER GON CONSIDERED EXPANSION

OF NATO OPERATIONAL AREA "UNACCEPTABLE". VREDELING, WHO SAID GON WOULD FOLLOW SACLANT STUDY "CRITICALLY" VIGOROUSLY CONTESTED CONFESSIOAL SPOKESMEN'S CLAIM INTERPELLATION MADE NO SENSE, WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, AND WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT NATO'S IMAGE IN NETHERLANDS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 30 SECOND CHAMBER INTERPELLATED MINISTER OF DEFENSE (VREDELING) AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (VAN DER STOEL) ON SACLANT STUDY ON CAPE TANKER ROUTE PROTECTION DURING TIME OF WAR. FONMIN ASSURED CHAMBER GON OPPOSED ANY EFFORT EXPAND NATO'S OPERATIONAL AREA AND WOULD REJECT ANY STUDY INTENDED TO EVEN INDIRECTLY SUPPORT WHITE REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. MINISTER NOTED, HOWEVER, STUDY UNDERTAKEN BECAUSE OF INCREASING SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY IN INDIAN OCEAN. HE OUTLINED PARAMETERS WITHIN WHICH STUDY BEING CONDUCTED, STRESSING PROVISION AGAINST CONTACTS WITH NON-NATO GOVERNMENTS AND NECESSITY FOR FINAL PLAN TO HAVE NAC APPROVAL.

3. DEFMIN VREDELING UNDERSCORED HIS COLLEAGUE'S REMAKRS ON INCREASING SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY. DEFMIN SAID, "FOR SOME TIME THERE HAS EXISTED IN NATO ANXIETY OVER SWIFT GROWTH OF SOVIET NAVAL UNITS IN THE PACIFIC, THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND THE CARIBBEAN. WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN THIS GROWTH WILL CEASE. IT IS, THEREFORE, ENTIRELY REASONABLE THAT NATO DEVELOP PLANS TO SAFEGUARD OIL ROUTES IN THE EVENT OF WAR OR ACCUTE DANGER OF WAR. WE SIMPLY CANNOT REJECT THE REASONS FOR THIS PLANNING A PRIORI". VREDELING VIGOROUSLY DENIED SACLANT'S "PAPER PLAN" WOULD LEAD TO EXPANSION OF NATO OPERATIONAL AREA, NATO RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA, OR INVOLVE NATO IN ANY EFFORT TO PREVENT DECOLONIZATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

4. SECOND CHAMBER FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DANKERT (LABOR) SAID THE PRINCIPAL ISSUE IN THE INTERPELLATION WAS WHETHER THERE IN FACT ANY REASON TO PLAN FOR PROTECTION OF SEA ROUTES AROUND CAPE. HE CONTENTED THERE NO REASON FOR "SPECIAL ACTIVITY" SINCE, DESPITE GROWTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIET NAVY, EAST-WEST NAVAL RELATIONSHIP NOT UNBALANCED. DANKERT CLAIMED THAT IF THERE NO SERIOUS REASON FOR CONTINGENCY PLANNING, SECRET COMMISSION TO UNDERTAKE SUCH PLANS WAS FORMIDABLE POLITICAL BLUNDER. DANKERT COMMENTED THAT IT WAS DANGEROUS FOR REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE NATO TO STRAY OUTSIDE THEIR MILITARY AREA ON MILITARY PLANNING. "SITUATIONS MAY BE CREATED WHICH HAVE FOREIGN AFFAIRS IMPLICATIONS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT IT IS PRECISELY IN DEFENSE MATTERS OF SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT THE PRIMACY OF FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD

BE RECOGNIZED. IF THIS HAD BEEN TRUE IN THIS CASE, THE MATTER WOULD NEVER HAVE ARISEN". DANKERT DID NOT FIND A PAPER STUDY SO OBJECTIONABLE ESPECIALLY IF IT HAD A GENUINE CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE THREAT TO THE TANKER ROUTE, BUT IT SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN SO SECRETLY. VAN DER STOEL INTERJECTED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE MORE "OPENNESS" IN NATO BUT THIS WAS A PROBLEM IN VIEW OF THE 15 SEPARATE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED.

5. RADICAL (PPR) MEMBER COPPES WAS LESS MODERATE IN HIS PRESENTATION THAN DANKERT. HE SAID THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THE RADICALS' ANXIETY WAS ISSUE OF SOUTH AFRICA. THE PPR WANTED AN UNEQUIVOCAL GON POLICY ON THIS QUESTION. THE RADICALS' DOUBTS HAVE ONLY BEEN INCREASED BY THE GON'S REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE GUINEA BISSAU. COPPES QUESTIONED CREDIBILITY OF CLAIM THAT SACLANT STUDY CONCERNED ONLY TANKER ROUTE PROTECTION. HE ARGUED THAT, "IF THERE IS REALLY A NEED FOR BARRIERS TO SOVIET EXPANSION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND AMONG THE FREEDOM MOVEMENTS, DEPLOYMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BE NECESSARY AND CONTINUATION OF THE WHITE MINORITY GOVERNMENTS THERE WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST".

6. DEFENSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VAN ELSSEN (KVP) AND SCHOLTEN (CHU) WERE BOTH HIGHLY CRITICAL OF NEED FOR INTERPELLATION. VAN ELSSEN SAID, "THIS INTERPELLATION IS INCORRECT. AT THIS MOMENT (I.E. DURING GON DEFENSE WHITE PAPER EXERCISE) WE SHOULD NOT CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE NETHERLANDS WANTS TO GET OUT OF ITS NATO RESPONSIBILITIES. THIS IS ONLY AN ELECTION STUNT TO BRING NATO INTO DISCREDIT. AS WE HAVE SEEN, IT LEADS TO POLITICAL STUNTWORK BY BOTH LEFT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND RIGHT IN THIS CHAMBER". SCHOLTEN CHARGED THAT THE LABOR PARTY BY PARTICIPATING IN THE INTERPELLATION, LIKE THE PPR, IS READY TO TAKE AN ANTI-NATO LINE. LABOR SPOKESMAN DANKERT AND D'66 SPOKESMAN VAN MIERLO HEATEDLY DENIED THE CONFESSIONAL CHARGES AND SAID THAT THE INTERPELLATION WAS MEANT EXACTLY TO EFFECT THE OPPOSITE, I.E. DISPEL REPORTS OF IMPROPER NATO PRACTICES. VREDELING AND VAN DER STOEL BOTH SUPPORTED DANKERT AND VAN MIERLO. THE DEFENSE MINISTER CHARACTERIZED THE DEBATE AS USEFUL BECAUSE IT FORCED THE MINISTERS TO "PAY ATTENTION" TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS AND VAN DER STOEL AGREED.

7. COMMENT: INTERPELLATION RECEIVED MODERATE ATTENTION IN LEFT WING PRESS WITH MOST ACCOUNTS EMPHASIZING VREDELING'S STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD "FOLLOW NATO STUDY CRITICALLY" AND HIS VIEW THAT NATO FLEET WORLDWIDE WAS STRONGER THAN SOVIET. PRESS ALSO STRESSED VAN DER STOEL'S ASSURANCES TO CHAMBER THAT NEITHER NATO NOR USG INVOLVED IN EFFORT TO

PROVIDE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME WITH SPECIAL SUPPORT. HIATUS  
BETWEEN ORIGINAL VOLKSKRANT "REVELATION" NO NATO STUDY AND  
INTERPELLATION AND FACT INTERPELLATION CAME WHEN MOST PARLIAMEN-  
TARIANS PREOCCUPED WITH RESULTS OF PREVIOUS DAY'S  
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, ROBBED DEBATE OF GENUINE EXCITEMENT.  
SECOND CHAMBER MEMBER DE VRIES, WHO WAS TO SPEAK FOR  
LABOR IF DANKERT HAD BEEN DETAINED ABROAD, TOLD MFA NATO  
DIVISION OFFICIAL EARLIER IN WEEK THAT HE QUESTIONED  
UTILITY OF INTERPELLATION EXERCISE. MFA OFFICIAL, WHO  
HAD BRIEFED CHU MEMBER SCHOLTEN FOR INTERPELLATION,  
AGREED. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT YESTERDAY'S INTERPELLATION,  
LIKE PRESS-GENERATED FUROR SURROUNDING SACLANT STUDY, WAS  
ESSENTIALLY "A PSEUDO EVENT".  
TANGUY

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## Message Attributes

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